

Decision to treat

Candidate's information

You are the Consultant in charge on an evening shift. George is an 85 year old man brought to a Tertiary ED by ambulance following a collapse at home. George complained of severe abdominal pain into his back prior to the collapse. He had no LOC and sustained no injuries in the fall.

The ambulance crew found him to be awake but with an un-recordable BP, and in moderate amount of pain. He has received 500mls of crystalloid en route. They are unable to give you any background medical information, except to say that they think he has dementia

On your assessment in the ED, you have found him to have the following vital signs:

HR 110

BP 70/45

GCS 12

He has a large pulsatile mass in his abdomen which is tender to light palpation, and a FAST has demonstrated a 7cm AAA.

The Vascular surgeon is not in the hospital, and has asked for a decision to be made whether this man is suitable for surgery.

George's wife Valerie is in the relatives' room. Please discuss the situation with Valerie including appropriate options for management

You have 7 minutes to complete the task.

Domains assessed;

Medical expertise

Communication

Professionalism

Health Advocacy

Actor information

You are the wife of George. You have been married for 45 years, and have two children and six grandchildren, though none live in Melbourne.

George is 85 years old and up until the last 3-4 years has been an active and independent man with minimal health issues. He has stable hypertension, and is on medication for cholesterol. He has previously had an appendectomy and cholecystectomy with no complications.

In the last few years George was diagnosed with dementia, and has become increasingly reliant on you for assistance. He now cannot remember most small details (day date etc) and sometimes forgets who you are. He occasionally gets frustrated and angry, but has not been violent. He needs assistance with some ADLs (showering) but is still ambulant. Most days he simply sits and watches the garden.

You have felt very isolated with this illness, and in the last few months have become worried that George may accidentally injure himself at home, so have not been able to leave the house. You and your children have talked about a nursing home for George, but have not organized anything yet.

You have not ever discussed an advanced care directive, but don't think George would want to be put on life support.

Some questions to ask (if not addresses by the candidate)

“Will he survive an operation?”

“What are the complications of the operation?”

“Can I wait until my daughter flies in from interstate to discuss with her?”

Domain	Criteria for High Rating
Medical Expertise	Appropriate knowledge of relative risks of surgery - Estimate of survival chance
Communication	Introduction and explanation to patient Appropriate use of non medical language Allows relative to ask questions and ensure understanding
Professionalism	Professional appearance, demeanor and conduct Empathic interaction with patient.
Health advocacy	Ensure comfort and dignity maintained Respect relatives decision

Examiner's assessment

Candidate Name:

A. Component Assessment

Select ONE option that best represents the candidate's performance in this OSCE. Use the 9-point graded scale, where 1 is poorest and 9 is best. TICK ONE CELL for each row below.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Medical Expertise									
Communication									
Professionalism									
Health Advocacy									

B. Station Difficulty (please circle): Low Moderate High

C. Examiner Notes on Candidate Performance

Positives

Areas for Improvement

Suggestions

D. Global Rating for Standard Setting (please circle)

Clear Fail

Marginal Fail

Borderline

Marginal Pass

Clear Pas